Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

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Traditional Owners, Historical Peoples and the Stolen Generations

At the heart of Australia's Indigenous identity lies the notion of Traditional Ownership. Traditional Owners are Aboriginal Australians who maintain a spiritual and custodial connection to specific areas of land, passed down through generations. Their deep-rooted ties to the land encompass a profound understanding of its ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance. For Traditional Owners, the land is not merely a resource but a sacred entity intertwined with their identity, history, and cultural practices.

The concept of Historical Peoples sheds light on the complex and often painful history of Indigenous displacement and disconnection from traditional lands. Historical Peoples refer to Indigenous groups who were once Traditional Owners of specific areas but have been forcibly removed or displaced due to colonisation, economic pressures, and other factors.

One of the darkest chapters in Australia's history is the era of the Stolen Generations, a policy of forced removal of Indigenous children from their families and communities by government authorities. Spanning from the late 19th century to the 1970s, this traumatic practice aimed to assimilate Indigenous children into white society, resulting in the loss of language, culture, and familial bonds.

The impacts of the Stolen Generations reverberate through Indigenous communities to this day, with profound consequences for individuals, families, and cultural continuity. Many survivors continue to grapple with the trauma of separation, identity loss, and fractured family relationships, while subsequent generations contend with the intergenerational effects of this systematic disruption of kinship and culture.

Within the Gold Coast area of Australia, the intricate tapestry of Indigenous heritage encompasses diverse communities and lived experiences. The Yugambeh people, as Traditional Owners, maintain a deep spiritual and cultural connection to the land, embodying centuries-old traditions and custodianship. Alongside them, the Gold Coast and Tweed Aboriginal Community represents a historical continuum, reflecting the resilience and adaptability of Indigenous peoples in the face of displacement and cultural disruption.

Additionally, scattered throughout the region are individuals and families who bear the legacy of the Stolen Generations, their stories echoing the profound impacts of past government policies on Indigenous kinship, identity, and belonging. Together, these communities and individuals contribute to the vibrant mosaic of Indigenous heritage within the Gold Coast, each layer adding depth and richness to the ongoing narrative of survival, resilience, and cultural resurgence.

Read the full article at yugam.be/stories/unravelling-australias-indigenous-tapestry-exploring-traditional-owners-historical-peoples-and-the-legacy-of-the-stolen-generations/

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Text: Yugambeh Nation, “Unravelling Australia’s Indigenous Tapestry”, yugam.be/stories (excerpt)

UNRAVELLING THE TAPESTRY

Questions

Questions

1. Who are Traditional Owners, according to the article?

2. Who are Historical Peoples, and what caused their displacement?

3. What were the Stolen Generations, and when did the policy of forced removal take place?

4. What effects of the Stolen Generations are still felt today?

5. Which three groups does the article describe on the Gold Coast?

6. What steps does the article say are needed for healing?

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